
ARENA REPORT

Volume II, Number 3

8
NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE
Tuesday, October 10, 1989
Orlando Convention Center
Orlando, FL

Welcome one and all to another edition of "Arena Report". My first live show in two months. Talk about going through withdrawal. Last time I went that long was in 1984. Besides this NWA review, we have a report on the last WWF tapings which were held in Wheeling, WV. As a matter of fact, we could call the correspondent report section the Lanigan & Reilly Show as five of the seven reports come from those two hombres. Things are heating up in Florida and read all about it in "Ramblings" this issue. Letters from you, the readers round out this ish.

The next issue of "A.R" will be dated Oct. 22nd and originate from the Orlando Arena when the circus comes to town with a Hogan- Bad News headliner. Yeecccchhh! I also will tentatively have a FCW report as they are back in town 10/15. But last week on the show, they didn't promo it which they did the week before. So it may have already been cancelled. Will know by the end of this edition. And since Sat. Night's Main Event is on this coming weekend, I'll review that as well. Along with all the other goodies for your pre-Halloween treats. Maybe I need Elvira to type those promos.

"Arena Report" is published twice per month at the selling price of 75¢ an issue. You may order up to as many as you like at one time. To keep track of your subscription, there is a number at the top left, letting you know how many issues you have remaining. All reports, renewals, and letters may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 370 Lake Tahoe Ct. #102 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Thanks for everything sent. It's appreciated. Now lets go to O-Town and the home of the Magic, I was joined tonight by my lovely wife Cheryl. She's been on hiatus longer than me as since we moved from Texas, she hadn't enjoyed any live shows.

Opening Match

Tom Zenk put The Cuban Assassin to sleep at 6:10. Ass was a sub for Dick Slater who is in Japan and will not return to the NWA when he comes home as they told him if he goes to the Orient he would no longer be welcome. Pretty uneventful bout although Assassin did try. 1/2

2nd Match

Steve Williams beat Mike Rotunda in 5:39. Captain Mike had Doc pinned in the corner using the ropes and Tommy Young counted to three but the fans told Tommy what happened and as Mike argued with him, Williams came from behind and rolled him up. A fan had a placard that said, "Tommy Young Fan Club". Scary to think what initiation is to get into that. Decent match. *1/2

3rd Match

Brian Pillman pinned Eddie Gilbert in 8:46. At 3:30 Gilbert punched Brian when he was supposed to break. From there on in he played total heel. Eddie came off the top rope but Brian reversed it

for the pin. Cheryl was having a good time until Brian spit on her when Gilbert clocked him one. **

Tag Team Match

The Skyscrapers went to a double count out with Rick & Scott Steiner in 17:48. The shock of the night. This was a **** star match. This was the most intriguing match that I wanted to see. I figured it would be horrible. They wrestled last night in West Palm Beach in what was described to me as a -** match. Not tonight. First 5:00 was all comedy as Rick bit Teddy Long, Sid, and Spivey in the butt. At 7:00 Sid dropped Rick on the barrier and the "Dogface" came up with a bloody nose. Wouldn't be surprised if he broke it. At one point, the brothers came off the top rope and clotheslined both Skys. They were all brawling outside when the bell rang. Best tag match I've seen all year. Again, ****. Sid did a great job. Fans hated his guts. Super heat.

NWA Tag Team Championship

The Freebirds retained their titles by beating Johnny Ace & Brian Pillman in 13:36. Shane Douglas came to ringside with his arm in a sling. Seems Sid hurt it pretty bad in a recent match since he's pretty clumsy. Ace still looks lost at times. Funny, Hayes yelled at the crowd when he had Pillman hurt, "Now who's the faggot?" The fans all responded in unison, "You are." Had to be there. Cheryl never says boo to the wrestlers but all of a sudden she yelled at P.S. I almost fell off my chair. She thinks his antics are hilarious. Ace came off the ropes and Michael hit him in the back with a clothesline. Garvin then delivered the DDT and garnered the victory, **

NWA TV Championship

Sting beat the Great Muta via DQ in 11:23. The most disappointing match of the night. Neither wanted to work. Muta was actually smirking and goofing around. Someone must have spiked his sushi. No mist. Only highlight was when Gary Hart interfered and Sting popped him and then double clotheslined them. Real boring stuff. ½*

US Championship

Lex Luger retained the United States title beating Tommy Rich in 13:06. Nothing special. They both worked real hard but it just had no chemistry. Tommy had Lex pinned but Luger reversed it with tights. Lex really pays attention to how the crowd reacts to him. It seems like he's always looking at you. *½

NWA World Heavyweight Championship

Ric Flair beat Terry Funk in 20:38 in what was billed on TV as a Texas Death Match but it never came off. Typical bout. Good but not outstanding. Sitting front row and hearing those chops is one hell of an experience. Funk went for the spinning toe hold but Ric cradled him for the win. ***

Orlando Notes

Crowd was 1,600 which was way off their 6,000 plus sell out last time they were here. Reason could be the switching of the TV time slots but who knows with these guys. The heat was tremendous throughout the show... They didn't announce a return date which is typical... Overall a good card and that Steiners-Scrapers tag match still has me pumping.

****Ramblings will begin on page 5 this issue*****

Correspondent Reports

R.P.I. Fieldhouse

Troy, NY

September 28, 1989

Correspondent: Dan Reilly

1) Eddie Gilbert rolled up Cuban Assassin in 14:15. Dullsville. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 2) Tom Zenk downed Norman the Lunatic at 8:39 with a leap off the top rope. Comedy at end with Norman and "Peanuthead". * 3) Skyscrapers defeated Dynamic Dudes at 11:05 as Cornette & Long argue and Scrapers double team for the win. ** 4) Mike Rotunda pinned Steve Williams at 8:21. Doc acting like Duggan. Bad. Dud 5) Stan Lane beat Michael Hayes as P.S. had Stan pinned but Cornette rocked Hayes with the racquet allowing Lane to score the pinfall. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 6) Road Warriors beat New Zealand Militia in 8:32 as all four guys worked hard. Ripper got pinned after a shoulder-block. *** 7) Sting beat Great Muta via DQ as Gary Hart interfered. Short (7:52) but good bout. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ 8) Lex Luger squashed Tommy Rich at 4:36. Rich got pummelled. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 9) Ric Flair pinned Terry Funk in 17:32. Ric bled like crazy. Funk was awesome. Bout saved the show. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ Att: 1,000 Outside after the show, Gary Hart got real nasty with a few fans. Uncle Fester should chill out.

Madison Square Garden

New York, NY

September 30, 1989

Correspondent: Elyse Zois

1) The Genius pinned Koko Ware after Koko missed a charge in the corner and Lanny rolled him up. 2) Jimmy Snuka downed Honkey Tonk Man at 10:26. Match was 10 minutes too long. Jimmy Hart was on the apron and HTM collided with him and Superfly pinned him. 3) Curt Hennig reversed an inside cradle to pin Red Rooster. 4) Mark Young used some break dancing and a sunset flip to beat Barry Horowitz in 10:57. Don't feel bad for Barry. You'd like to make what he's making. 5) Ultimate Warrior beat Andre the Giant via DQ in 9:36. As Warrior attempted a clothesline, Andre threw the ref in the way and was dq'd. 6) Demolition beat Brain Busters via DQ in 12:46. Good brawl ending as Smash had Anderson covered and Tully pulled the ref out of the ring causing the DQ. 7) Greg Valentine pinned Ron Garvin at 19:12. Ron tried a sunset flip but Greg held the ropes and sat on him for the pin. Afterwards, Garvin stole the shinguard. Quick, call the police. 8) Rick Rude and Roddy Piper went to a double count out at 11:04 in a good brawl. They fought all the way back to the dressing room.

War Memorial Arena

Johnstown, PA

October 1, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Paul Roma beat Bill Woods with a powerslam at 10:24. D* 2) Dino Bravo downed Jim Neidhart at 9:10. Anvil suplexed Bravo into the ring but Dino hung on for the win. C- 3) Jimmy Snuka beat Honkey Tonk Man in 6:56. Read previous report for finish. D 4) Dusty Rhodes downed the Big Boss Man with a series of bionic elbows at 7:47. C- 5) Tugboat Thomas beat Brooklyn Brawler with an avalanche at 2:45. D 6) Hacksnore Duggan nailed Akeem with the 2x4 after OMG tried to use it. Time was 4:57. D* 7) The Rockers beat The Bolsheviks in 19:11. Best bout of the night as even Volkoff looked good. Match broke down and Michaels pinned Zhukov with a sunset flip from the top rope. B Att: 850

Hartford Civic Center

Hartford, CT

October 1, 1989

Correspondent: Dan Reilly

1) Mark Young pinned Barry Horowitz in 13:30. Same card as MSG but some different endings. 2) Lanny Poffo over Koko Ware with the same finish.

3) Roddy Piper beat Rick Rude via count out. Piper looks healed from his injury. Could have been better. ** 4) Ron Garvin pinned Greg Valentine in 12:45 with a roll up. Badd to the bone. Concessions did boffo business during this bout. -** 5) Demolition defeated the Brain Busters at 7:10 via coun out. Smash worked his butt off. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 6) Curt Hennig beat Bret Hart in 18:30 in a match that was simply outstanding. Lots of near pinfalls. "Perfect" won using the tights. **** 7) Ultimate Warrior over Andre via DQ in 8:20. Same finish where the giant pushes the ref into a Warrior clothesline. * Att: 9,500

Wheeling Civic Center

Wheeling, WV

October 2, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan

This was a Titan "Superstars" taping so here are the highlights: There was a sign when John walked in that said the WWF had a right to confiscate any signs or banners that would interfere with their taping. John quickly zipped his jacket to hide his "Four Horsemen" t-shirt... Officials were giving out shirts to front row ticket holders... Roddy Piper pinned Brooklyn Brawler by slugging him out... First Bro Love had Piper's team in the Survivors on: Bushes and Snuka... Boss Man now brings a ball and chain into the ring and ties it to his loser's leg... Greg Valentine beat Red Rooster via DQ as Garvin ran in and interfered when the "Hammer" had the figure four on... Curt Hennig beat Bret Hart with a reverse roll up in another great match for these two... DEMOLITION BEAT THE BRAIN BUSTERS TO WIN THE WWF TAG TITLES AT 5:24. They used their patented finisher on Tully as Ax nailed Tully with an elbow from the second rope as Smash held him... Rick Rude beat Roddy Piper via DQ in a match which had McMahon and his cronies in the aisle watching the bout... They had a test of strenght between Warrior & Bravo (can't wait to see those barn burner bouts.) as a huge fan came in the ring and sat on Dino's back as he did pushups. He then sat on Warrior and he and Bravo attacked Ultimate. Maybe this guy was a plant and he'll feud with that other plant, Hillbilly Jim... Andre & Haku are now a team... Akeem beat Paul Roma... Ultimate Warrior used three clotes-lines to dispose of Andre in twenty seconds... They did a Bro Love segment with Bravo and the "fan". He'll accompany Dino to all his matches with Warrior... Hulk Hogan beat Randy Savage in a cage in 9:41. Both bled and Hogan was covered. Sherri tried to stop Hulk from leaving the ring but he kicked her down and left the cage. Att: 7,800 (sell out)

Toledo Sports Arena

Toledo, Ohio

October 3, 1989

Correspondent: Mike Terry

This was a Titan "Challenge" taping. I just received this today thus, no mention of it on the front page. Here are the highlights: Rick Martel is now called Rick "The Model" Martel... Rude now has plaid tights, one side with his face and the backside with Roddy's... Jimmy Snuka beat Brooklyn Brawler... Curt Hennig beat Mark Young... Rick Rude defeated Tim Horner... Brain Busters went to a double DQ with the Bushwhacker. Rude beat Piper via DQ... In a tag match with Koko and Hillbilly, the finish was to see Koko go on top of Jim's shoulders and attempt a flying something but Ware slipped and fell flat on his face. Mike says the bump of the night... Warrior over Andre in thirty seconds... Tito Santana beat Honkey Tonk Man via DQ as Boss Man interfered but Dusty cleaned house... AL Perez debuted beating Barry Horowitz. He was at the Wheeling tapings too... Hogan pinned Savage clean in the middle of the main event. Vince and Company watched this bout. Show sold out two days in advance. Crowd was 7,500.

Boston Garden

Boston, MA

October 7, 1989

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Paul Roma beat Barry Horowitz with a powerslam at 15:09. 2) Barry Windham defeated Tim Horner with a lariat and use of the tights. Best match of the night. 3) Jimmy Snuka beat HTM in 11:51 with same finish. Must be the only one Snoooka can remember. 4) Rick Rude beat Roddy Piper via DQ as "Hot Rod" pushed Rude into the ref. Time was 8:24. 5) Bushwhackers defeated Powers of Pain as Mr. Fuji interfered, Butch took the cane and hit Barbie with it. Ken didn't make the save. 6) Hillbill Jim Beat Boris Zhukov in 6:08 with a boot to the face. Think of all the Z Men Jim Herd could have. He could start an army of them. 7) Rick Martel beat Tito Santana in 10:16 with the legs on the corner buckle. Same finish of their first matches but an extended time period. 8) Ultimate Warrior beat Andre via DQ. Same as everywhere. Fred Sparta gets put in the way of Warrior's clothesline. Andre and Snuka. They should be managed by the Genius. Att: 9,500

Pittsburgh Civic Arena

Pittsburgh, PA

October 7, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Ranger Ross beat Brad Anderson with a combat kick at 4:12. D 2) Tom Zenk beat Bill Irwin at 4:23 with the sleeper. C* 3) Norman used the key to beat Tommy Rich at 6:56. "Wildfire" actually slammed the Lunatic. C 4) Dynamic Dudes beat New Zealand Militia as Jocko was arguing with the ref and Johnny Ace rolled him up in 12:19. C 5) Skyscrapers beat Midnight Express at 13:13. Sid actually threw a dropkick which knocked Eaton off the ring apron. Spivey hit Bobby with a clothesline from the back followed by one from the front courtesy of El Sid. C 6) Brian Pillman pinned the Cuban Assassin in 4:30 with a flying bodypress. D 7) Rick and Scott Steiner beat The Freebirds via DQ in 12:12 as Michael Hayes used the title belt on Rick. B- 8) Sting beat Great Muta in 10:31. Great action when they got off the mat from the restholds. Muta used the mist which Sting blocked but the oriental was still dq'd. B* 9) Lex Luger turned back Steve Williams in 14:04 with help from the ropes. Lex blew up early. Doc went into the barricade so hard, it sent fans scrambling and beers flying. C* 10) Ric Flair beat Terry Funk in a Texas Death Match which lasted more than 24 minutes. Bout went six falls and ended when Funk couldn't answer the bell for 7th. John's best match of the year. Att: 3,000

Ramblings

The Florida promotion is back in full swing. They will definately return to Orlando this Sunday. I almost fell out of my chair when I was watching their show last week as Diamond Dallas Page said Eddie Gilbert & Missy Hyatt would soon be coming to Florida. Might be premature though. In speaking with Wayne Coulter who runs the group, I thought Gilbert was coming in soon to assist with the books. But a more reliable source told me that Eddie mentioned to someone within that promotion that he might come in February when his NWA contract runs out. Then again, if someone else is booking the NWA other than Flair, he may stay. (Let's hope that call gets made to Bixby, OK very soon.) Bret Hart said to be pushing hard to get into the Turner organization sans brother Owen or Jim Neidhart... Another scenario I heard for "Hot Stuff" was going to the WWF and forming the "Perfect Team" with Hennig and having Missy as the "Perfect Valet". Cute. What would Vince call them, Perfect #1 and #2 I presume... Big Al Greene now with FCW and getting a push... Ron Slinker turned heel and attacked Lou Perez... FCW also promoting a show in Sarasota 10/27 with Lawler vs. Bigelow on

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Letters To The Editor

Roddy "Ain't" Rowdy No More (?)

I think Roddy Piper isn't rowdy anymore since his return to the WWF. He has been outsmarted by the "Brain". He got what he deserved on the Brother Love show. He has been humiliated on Prime Time by Rude and the Heenan family. I think a wise move for Piper would be to turn heel and join the Heenan family before he is seriously injured or put out of wrestling for good. Since his return, it seems he can't back up what he says anymore. Piper lacks wrestling ability too. People use to hate him and now they love him. Piper is a fake. Eat your heart out Piper.

Wade Olson
Harris, MN

RL- Is Wade trying to turn this sheet into an Apter style newsletter or what? For anyone interested in hearing more of Wade, he is now putting out his own sheet called, "The Headbutt". Write to him at 10850 Olson Rd. Harris, MN 55032.

Most Improved

With the year end awards just around the corner, it will be interesting to see who comes out on top. Everyone seems to be looking at Lex Luger, but the fact is since his series ended with Steamboat (who did carry him through a great series) his matches have only been average. While his arrogant attitude has improved his aura, he is still no more than an average worker.

My vote for most improved wrestler is going to Rick Rude. His work-rate has picked up tremendously, and his matches with Ultimate have actually been enjoyable. I'm looking forward to his current feud with Roddy Piper which will have very little wrestling but should be good brawls with plenty of heat.

Ted Field
Woburn, MA

Apter Mags

Have you read some of the pathetic articles in the Apter mags lately? Like "Liz-Don't Wrestle Sherri." and "Hogan's Afraid of Piper Because Randy Did A Job For The Rowdy Scot." This sort of thing makes me ill, they want us to think that pro wrestling is 100% real, they're as bad as McMahon.

Matt Calder
England

RL- I recently watched the tape from the UAWF convention in Memphis from 1988 and J.D. McKay (editor of "Ringside Reflector") asked the panel at the press conference about how the wrestlers feel concerning those stories in Apter. They said that the bottom line is selling magazines and those kind of stories is what does it. The wrestlers don't mind, it's great exposure.

Random Thoughts

I'm mad about Vince losing Tully & Arn to the NWA... No big loss concerning the Rougeaus... Then I read in the Observer/Arena Report that nine more may leave... Vince, please start using your play money and give all your wrestlers a raise and go after the Roadies, Sting, and Luger... I like the way Vince goes out and gets revenge... Warriors are so darn used up (Midnight Express too) that they have to leave... I hate this Robin and Steiner bit... Why is Dick Slater getting a push?

Why don't you tell us who else wants to leave the WWF. I hate to be left hanging. Dave Meltzer always does it... I hope Paul E winds up with Titan.

Walt Marshall
Morrisville, PA

RL- The reason newsletter editors hold out on some stories is that our sources ask be careful what we print for whatever reason it may be. And you have to understand, no sources, no newsletter.

(continued from page 5)

top for USWA title. Also Samoans vs. Fantastics (probably Afa & Sika) and the Florida guys round out the card. Ticket prices for Orlando have dropped to \$5 for ringside, \$3 general admission... What the NWA has done with Dick Slater also happened with Terry Gordy. Bammer will no longer work for Turner as they were unhappy that he was still going to work Japan. He has some dates coming up with World Class. The NWA continues to bite their nose to spite their face... TBS is getting very close to the quality it was when George Scott ran it. Get Ric out of that position... NWA almost got in big hot water over the next pay per view. With Jim Ross mentioning a few times that parental discretion was advised for "Halloween Havoc", you knew they were planning a blood bath for that main event. Well, no more. It seems Jim Herd got a letter from Viewers Choice and Request TV, the two PPV companies. They were appalled that the NWA was putting that disclaimer on it and said if there is any blood in Philly, they will no longer carry NWA PPV shows. Will the NWA ever get it's act together?... There was a segment on "Inside Report" last night on the Dusty Rhodes-Big Daddy trial. Big Daddy gave out all the secrets and Dusty even said wrestling was 100% show business. You could tell it was an old interview though.... I have a great idea for a new tag combo in the NWA. How about Cactus Jack and Jimmy Backlund. Both guys take hellacious bumps and they do a crazy act real well... Now that Demo has the belts, watch Tully and Arn get pinned everywhere... I don't like Jonnie Stewart personally, but watching him on ESPN has impressed me. He's not all that bad. But too late to garner rookie awards.... Why was Nick Bockwinkel making Paul Diamond out to be a rookie. Come on Nick, did Titan rub off on you.

Final Word

Thanks to everyone who contributed this issue. Next issue already looks to be loaded. WWF report from Orlando, (Hogan-Bad News, Martel-Beefcake, Dusty-Boss Man, Haku-Santana, and more.) A report on the "King of the Ring" tourney in Providence, Sat. Night's Main Event review, an FCW report (Keirn-Jumbo Baretta, Nasties vs. Kendall & Greene, Tyree Pride-Slinzer, Lou Perez-Terminator) and the rest of the usual stuff. Till then gang.

See ya,

Ron